



Complete Summary

TITLE

Mental health: percent of eligible patients screened at required intervals for PTSD.

SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percent of eligible patients screened at regular intervals for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

RATIONALE

The Veterans Administration (VA) requires regular screening for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because PTSD is the mental health disorder most commonly associated with combat and is central to VA's mission. Screening for PTSD is the first and most essential step in identifying and engaging Veterans with PTSD. Given the challenge of a new generation of combat Veterans of OEF/OIF, it is crucially important that VA be proactive in identifying new PTSD early and intervening early in order to prevent chronic PTSD and its complicating disorders and functional problems whenever possible. These include major depression, suicidality, substance abuse, family violence and homelessness. It is of the utmost importance for VA to be able to identify individual patients with PTSD for

treatment purposes and to track aggregate populations for planning purposes. It is equally important to know the prevalence of PTSD among veterans of previous deployments, those exposed to local, regional or national disasters or terrorist attacks, and with history of military sexual trauma so that we can better meet their needs.

The Primary Care PTSD (PC-PTSD) Screen is the required standardized PTSD tool given its selection for general use in the *Joint VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for PTSD*. In addition, the PC-PTSD was incorporated into DoD's Post Deployment Screening Tool (DD Form 2796, April 2003), which is administered to every deployed service man and woman. Developed by the National Center for PTSD, it was designed for use in primary care and other medical settings. The PC-PTSD is brief and problem-focused. The screen does not include a list of potentially traumatic events. There are two reasons for this: (1) studies on trauma and health in both male and female patients suggest that the active mechanism linking trauma and physical health is the diagnosis of PTSD. In other words, the relationship between trauma and health appears to be mediated through a current PTSD diagnosis; (2) a symptom-driven screen, rather than a trauma-focused screen, is attractive to primary care staff who may not be able to address a patient's entire trauma history during their visit with the patient. Such a trauma inquiry might be especially problematic with a VA population where the average number of traumatic events meeting criterion A for PTSD is over four.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Mental health; post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); screening; Primary Care PTSD Screen (PC-PTSD)

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Patients from the NEXUS Clinic cohort eligible for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) screening (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Eligible patients screened at required intervals for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with item-wise recording of item responses, total score, and positive or negative result of the Primary Care PTSD Screen in the medical record (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence
- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

External oversight/Veterans Health Administration
Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care
Behavioral Health Care
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Advanced Practice Nurses
Physician Assistants
Physicians
Psychologists/Non-physician Behavioral Health Clinicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Unspecified

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

See the "Rationale" field.

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better
Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Patients from the NEXUS Clinic cohort*

*Refer to the original measure documentation for patient cohort description.

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Patients from the NEXUS Clinic cohort* eligible for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) screening**

*Refer to the original measure documentation for patient cohort description.

***Patient eligible for PTSD screening during the 12 months prior to pull date and are in the NEXUS cohort minus exclusions.*

Exclusions

Patients are excluded with:

- Recognized diagnosis of PTSD in the past 12 months as evidenced by at least one clinical encounter where PTSD was identified as the primary or secondary reason for the encounter. International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD9-CM) code 309.81 will be used to identify PTSD encounter.
- OR**
- Documented moderate or severe cognitive impairment.
 - Provider documentation that the patient is moderately impaired or severely impaired or chronically severely impaired or too cognitively impaired to participate in screening.

Refer to the original measure documentation for additional details.

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Encounter

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window precedes index event

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Patients screened at required intervals for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with item-wise recording of item responses, total score, and positive or negative result of the Primary Care PTSD (PC-PTSD) Screen in the medical record*

***Note:**

- *Screened at regular intervals:* Screening must be accomplished annually for the first five years after most recent date of service separation and then

every five years after the first five years. If the service separation date cannot be established, annual screening will be required.

- *Date of service separation*: Most recent date of separation from active military duty. If the veteran has more than one tour of duty, the most recent date is used. If the service separation date cannot be established, annual screening will be required.
- *Acceptable screening for PTSD*: For the patient to be considered "screened", PTSD screening must be accomplished using the standard four-question Primary Care PTSD Screen with item-wise recording of responses to all four questions, summary score, and positive/negative results must be recorded in the medical record.
 - **Note**: Telephone screening is acceptable.
 - **Note**: Screening must be recorded using the Mental Health Assistant software. Screening prior to 10/1/08 will be accepted if the 4 question PC-PTSD screen was used and is documented in the progress notes. The total score may be in the progress note or in a health summary as was allowed prior to 10/1/06.

Refer to the original measure documentation for additional details.

Exclusions

Unspecified

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data
Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Primary Care Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Screen (PC-PTSD)

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

PTSD screening using the PC-PTSD.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2009: Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Performance Measurement System](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Mission Critical Measures](#)

MEASURE SUBSET NAME

[Screening](#)

DEVELOPER

Veterans Health Administration

FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

Unspecified

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Unspecified

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2006 Oct

REVISION DATE

2009 Jan

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY 2008, Q1 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Washington (DC); 2007 Oct 31. 315 p.

SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "PTSD Screening Using the PC-PTSD," is published in "FY 2009, Q2 Technical Manual for the VHA Performance Measurement System."

For more information contact:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Quality and Performance (10Q)
ATTN: Lynnette Nilan, E-mail: lynnette.nilan@va.gov or
Tammy Czarnecki, E-mail: tammy.czarnecki2@va.gov

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on March 7, 2008. The information was not verified by the measure developer. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on December 1, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on March 22, 2010.

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Date Modified: 5/3/2010

